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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-13 EUR-25 RSR-01 /108 W
---------- 028469
O R 231115Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4992
INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
CINCPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13282

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, VS
SUBJECT: TPJMC/ RETURN OF PW'S AND CIVILIAN DETAINEES

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENT REACHED IN TPJMC JULY 20, THE GVN AND PRG AR ESCHEDULED TO EXCHANGE REMAINING PW'S AND CIVILIAN DETAINEES ON THEIR ORIGINAL LISTS. THE AGREEMENT COVERS 4,364 PW'S (33 MILITARY) TO BE RETURNED TO THE PRG AND 662 (410 MILITARY) TO BE RETURNED IN THE GVN. SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:
JULY 23 - GVN WILL RETURN 900 CIVILIANS AT LOC NINH, BINH LONG, MR 3;
JULY 24 - GVN WILL RETURN 900 CIVILIANS AT LOC NINH; PRG WILL RETURN IX CIVILIANS IN QUANG NAM AND 19 IN QUANG TIN, MR 1; 28 CIVILIANS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE GVN AT THIEN NGON, TAY NINH, MR 3;
JULY 25 - GVN WILL RETURN 640 CIVILIANS AT THIEN NGON; PRG WILL RETURN TEN CIVILIANS IN KHANH HOA, FIVE IN PHU YEN, AND EIGHT
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AT VO DINH IN KONTUM, ALL IN MR 2;

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JULY 26 - GVN WILL RETURN 640 CIVILIANS AT THIEN NGON; PRG WILL RE-
TURN 52 CIVILIANS IN KIEN GIANG, MR 4 AND 130 MILITARY AT
DUC NGHIEP, PLEIKU, MR 2;
JULY 27 - GVN WILL RETURN 640 CIVILIANS AT THIEN NGON; PRG WILL RE-
TURN 79 CIVILIANS IN QUANG NGAI, MR 1, AND 130 MILITARY AT
DUC NGHIEP;
JULY 28 - GVN WILL RETURN 611 CIVILIANS AND 33 MILITARY AT THIEN
NGON; PRG WILL RETURN 25 CIVILIANS IN PHUOC TUY AND 11 IN
HAU NGHIA, MR 3, NINE CIVILIANS IN AN XUYEN, MR 4, AND 150
MILITARY AT DUC NGHIEP.

2. THE COMPLETION OF THE ABOVE SCHEDULE WILL MEAN THAT BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE RETURNED ALL THE PRISONERS AND DETAINEES CONTAINED ON THE ORIGINAL LISTS; HOWEVER, BOTH SIDES HAVE ACCUSED THE OTHER SIDE OF HOLDING BACK PRISONERS. KIM SEES THIS AS A FURTHER ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION IN THE TPJMC.

3. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO COLONEL NGUYEN VAN KIM, GVN DEL STAFF OFFICER, THE GVN CORPS COMMANDERS HAVE NOT YET APPROVED THE RETURN SITES IN QUANG NGAI, MR 1, AND PHUOC TUY AND HAU NGHIA, MR 3. THE RETURN SITE AT DUC NGHIEP WAS JUST APPROVED BY MG NGUYEN VAN TOAN, MR 2 COMMANDER YESTERDAY.

4. ASKED IF THE ICCS WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO THE PROPOSED RETURN SITES IN PRG TERRITORY TO OBSERVE THE PROCEDURES, KIM SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT PRESUMED THE ICCS WAS WORKED OUT THE SAFETY ASSURANCES WITH THE PRG (SEE SAIGON 11960). KIM DID NOT KNOW IF THE GVN WOULD ACCPET THE RETURNEES FROM THE PRG IF THE ICCS OBSERVERS COULD NOT OR WOULD NOT TRAVEL TO THE SITES. HE THOUGHT THAT SINCE THE ICCS WAS ONLY THREE PARTIES (CANDEL REPS TERMINATED OPERATIONS IN THE FIELD JULY 19) THE WHOLE ISSUE OF ICCS OBSERVERS MIGHT BE A MOOT POINT. HE STILL THINKS THE ICCS IS NECESSARY, BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIS SUPERIORS MIGHT DO.

5. THIS RELEASE DOES NOT COVER PW'S CAPTURED SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE WENT INTO EFFECT. THAT WILL BE THE NEXT PW ISSUE IN THE TPJMC IN KIM'S OPINION. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GVN HAD NOT YET CONSIDERED THE ISSUE OF THE 83 PW'S STILL SERVING SENTENCES IN CIVIL PRISONS FOR CRIMES COMMITTED WHILE IN THE PW CAMPS (OF WHOM 39 ORIGINALLY CAPTURED BY US FORCES). THE PRG DEL HAS NOT, IN SO FAR AS HE KNOWS,
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RAISED THAT ISSUE.
MARTIN

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NNN

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Executive Order: GS MARTIN
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